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# INSIDE THE BELTWAY

## It ain't peanuts

Sen. Jesse Helms recently called the attention of his colleagues to an article which appears in the recent edition of Washingtonian magazine. The author is Ion Mihai Pacepa, former deputy director of Romania's Department of Foreign Intelligence. Mr. Pacepa was also a personal adviser to President Nicolae Ceausescu. Mr. Pacepa defected to the United States in 1978.

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The article recalls a time when Mr. Ceausescu reviewed files on President Carter and his family prepared by Mr. Pacepa. "I see that his brother, Billy, is some kind of drunk, a corruptible fellow who doesn't know how to do anything but is trying to turn a fast buck any way he can," the Romanian president observed.

The file revealed the possibility of a connection being made between a foreign agent and Billy Carter in the matter of peanut exports. "We should do everything we can to encourage this operation," Mr. Ceausescu said. "We import enough peanuts into Romania, so let's buy them from him, from his farm. We can use so many peanuts that we could buy up his whole production for at least the next 10 years. Let's make Billy our representative for importing peanuts and other things.

"But for the beginning, let's work under a foreign flag. Let's import peanuts through the London company of your Liberian agent's. When Billy has gotten enough of a taste for this money, then we can tell him that it's not English or Liberian money, but ours. But only when we are sure that Billy won't be able to do without his new source of income."

The additional anecdotes in the story sustain the impression of Mr. Ceausescu as a creatively ruthless exploiter of the U.S. image of a "maverick" Romania.

— John Elvin